

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 08556 052112Z

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-02 AID-05

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R 052100Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8164

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCSO, QUARRY HTS., CZ

CHMN USDEL JBUSMC RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 8556

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS BR

SUBJECT: GRANT MILITARY TRAINING (IMET)

REF: (A) STATE 243040, (B) BRASILIA 6085

1. WE APPRECIATE DEPT'S CONCERN THAT SPECIAL FORCES COURSE (REFTEL) MIGHT CAUSE CRITICISM, BUT FUNDING FOR COURSE HAS BEEN MADE UNDER FIFTH QUARTER PROCEDURES FROM FY-75, NOT FY-77 IMET ALLOCATIONS. THERE ARE ONLY SIX BRAZILIAN ARMY (BA) STUDENTS ATTENDING COURSES/TRAINING IN THE US UNDER FY-7T IMET PROGRAMS. ALL SIX CASES WERE SUBMITTED AS TRAINING REQUESTS BY MARCH 1976. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE THE TRAINING LINE ENTERED THE DOD COMPUTER PROGRAM ON FEB. 26, 1976, ORIGINALLY FOR AN AUGUST 1, 1976, COURSE. WE BELIEVE COURSE MEETS CRITERION ESTABLISHED IN PARAGRAPH 1(B) OF REFTEL (A).

2. DESPITE FACT THAT FUNDS INVOLVED ARE NOT GREAT, WE DO HAVE SERIOUS CREDIBILITY PROBLEMS IN OUR POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOB OVER IMET. ABRUPT TERMINATION OF IMET IN LATE FY-76 WAS A MATTER OF PRESIDENTIAL CONCERN HERE. USG RECONSIDERED AND PROVIDED FUNDS FOR TRANSITION

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 08556 052112Z

TO ASSIST IN PHASE OUT OF IMET AND TO ALLAY THAT

CONCERN. GOB FOUND LIMITED FUNDS TO PAY HIGH COST OF TRAVEL AND LIVING ALLOWANCE AND USG HAS AGREED TO PAY TRAINING COSTS DURING THE TRANSITION. BRAZILIAN ARMY, WHICH HAD TO CHANGE PERSONNEL AND BUDGET PLANS TO COPE WITH TRANSITION, WOULD NOW CONSIDER IT A BREACH OF FAITH IF THEY WERE FORCED TO PICK UP TRAINING TAB, MINOR AS IT IS, FOR COURSE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST. WE ALSO DOUBT BA COULD FIND MONEY AT THIS LATE DATE.

3. CAPTAIN SELECTED FOR TRAINING HAD COURSE CANCELED ONCE ALREADY AS RESULT OF IMET TRANSITION PROBLEMS. COURSE HAS NOW BEEN FUNDED A SECOND TIME, AUTHORIZATION PREPARED AND ISSUED. IN THIS COUNTRY WHERE COTERIES EXIST AROUND EVERY SENIOR OFFICER, THE CANDIDATE SELECTED IS THE AIDE TO A POLITICALLY POWERFUL AND SENIOR GENERAL. WE WILL, OF COURSE, LOSE SOME GOODWILL WE HAD HOPED TO GAIN IF WE CANCEL A SECOND TIME.

4. WE HOPE DEPARTMENT REALIZES THAT FURTHER TAMPERING WITH CONTROVERSIAL TRANSITION OF IMET WILL ONLY EXACERBATE STRAIN ON OUR POLITICAL-MILITARY CREDIBILITY WITH THE GOB. WE THINK IT INADVISABLE TO ASK GOB TO FUND COURSE THROUGH FMS CASH CHANNEL.
JOHNSON

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